

To: Forsgren, Lee[Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov]
From: Drinkard, Andrea[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=808A6B7B65BF447F93DAD2F510FEAF61-ADRINKAR]
Sent: Thur 9/13/2018 1:53:50 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

I'll come up in a few. In a meeting till 10.

From: Forsgren, Lee
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 9:52 AM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

Come see me. I have a slightly modified view based on policy conversations.

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 9:17 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Fuld, John <Fuld.John@epa.gov>
Cc: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

I think our standard statement will work here. He's asked and we have provided this multiple times, but there's nothing new here to report. I'm adding Lee for his awareness that this issue is coming up.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 9:06 AM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Fuld, John <Fuld.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

Thank you!

From: Drinkard, Andrea
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 9:05 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Fuld, John <Fuld.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

I'll follow up on this.

From: Lynn, Tricia
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 8:58 AM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Fuld, John <Fuld.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

Deadline is 4:30 today.

From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2018 8:35 AM
To: Lynn, Tricia <lynn.tricia@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

Please coordinate with andrea in ow thanks ng

Nancy Grantham
Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-6879 (desk)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (mobile)

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 5:53 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

Hello I am following up on the below inquiry. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Lebo <Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)>
Date: September 10, 2018 at 4:10:15 PM EDT
To: press@epa.gov
Subject: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

Hello,

Could you confirm the following stmt from the attached article? Also, can you comment on timing, as article states "soon"?

"Sources have told E&E that EPA will soon issue a rule to codify the memo, which forbids Section 404(c) action either preemptively - like for Pebble - or retroactively - as in the case of a West Virginia coal mine during the Obama administration"

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2018/09/10/stories/1060096407>

Thanks
Paul Lebo

Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble

[Dylan Brown](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, September 10, 2018

An aerial view of the Pebble mine camp site in 2011. Jason Sear/Flickr
With a new leader at EPA, influential conservatives renewed their demands for the agency to scrap proposed limits on the controversial Pebble Mine project in Alaska.

A [letter](#) last week updated the previous call to action sent to former EPA chief Scott Pruitt ([Greenwire](#), April 5).

Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist headlined the missive, which was also signed by Myron Ebell, the former Trump EPA transition team head and director of the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Center for Energy and Environment.

In January, Pruitt infuriated his usual allies by killing his own proposal to eliminate the 2014 proposed determination restricting large-scale mining in the watershed of Bristol Bay — home to the massive Pebble copper and gold deposit and headwaters of the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery.

Before resigning in July, Pruitt did issue a memo limiting how EPA can use its Clean Water Act Section 404(c) power to veto Army Corps of Engineers permits.

Sources have told E&E News that EPA will soon issue a rule to codify the memo, which forbids Section 404(c) action either pre-emptively — like for Pebble — or retroactively — as in the case of a West Virginia coal mine during the Obama administration (Greenwire, Aug. 17).

Deriding the power as akin to "federal zoning" laws, the limited-government groups said acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler must make an example out of the determination still looming over the Pebble project.

"The Agency can make sure that this message is received clearly by communicating that these rules will apply to all current and proposed projects, not just future permit applications," the letter states.

"So long as the preemptive veto on Pebble Mine remains in place," it says, "there remains a dangerous precedent for future administrations to undermine a fair, traditional, and rational permitting process."

Alaska Native, fishing interests and conservation groups have staunchly defended the determination to protect the region's multibillion-dollar salmon industry.

Among the other conservative groups that signed onto the letter were the American Business Defense Council, Americans for Limited Government, Americans for Prosperity, the American Lands Council, Public Lands for the People, Reaching America, the 60 Plus Association, the Independence Institute, the James Madison Institute, the Rio Grande Foundation and the John K. MacIver Institute for Public Policy.

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Sent: Thur 9/13/2018 1:19:05 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: BRISTOL BAY: Conservatives push Wheeler to help Pebble -- Monday, September 10, 2018 -- www.eenews.net

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[Dylan Brown](#), E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, September 10, 2018

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Sent from my iPhone

To: Frazer, Brian[Frazer.Brian@epa.gov]; Goodin, John[Goodin.John@epa.gov]; Kaiser, Russell[Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov]
From: Hough, Palmer[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=51CD0B0D81AC416FA265944D6E6575CE-PHOUGH]
Sent: Thur 9/20/2018 1:38:20 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: FYI ONLY: EPA's Obama-Era Pebble Mine Limits to Remain, Alaska Group Says

Russ participated in one of the BB meetings last week

From: Frazer, Brian
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 9:35 AM
To: Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Russell <Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FYI ONLY: EPA's Obama-Era Pebble Mine Limits to Remain, Alaska Group Says

Interesting, normally Ann C. would catch these meeting and pull Russ and I in. I'll follow up with her.

bf

From: Hough, Palmer
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 9:32 AM
To: Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Russell <Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov>; Frazer, Brian <Frazer.Brian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: FYI ONLY: EPA's Obama-Era Pebble Mine Limits to Remain, Alaska Group Says

FYI – Lee had two meetings last week with groups opposed to Pebble Mine. Yesterday, there were a few articles in the press that reported out from those meetings, below is an example. The headlines for these articles were a bit provocative.

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 8:19 AM
To: Peterson, Erik <Peterson.Erik@epa.gov>; Palomaki, Ashley <Palomaki.Ashley@epa.gov>; Allnutt, David <Allnutt.David@epa.gov>; McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>; Nogi, Jill <nogi.jill@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Lindsay, Andrea <Lindsay.Andrea@epa.gov>; Nalven, Heidi <Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov>; Fordham, Tami <Fordham.Tami@epa.gov>
Subject: FYI ONLY: EPA's Obama-Era Pebble Mine Limits to Remain, Alaska Group Says

News story re BBNC meeting last week w/ HQ.

Bloomberg BNE: EPA's Obama-Era Pebble Mine Limits to Remain, Alaska Group Says
<https://www.bna.com/epas-obamaera-pebble-n73014482652/>
By Stephen Lee

The EPA plans to retain Obama-era restrictions that could hamper the construction of a massive gold and silver mine in Alaska, two members of a group briefed by the agency told Bloomberg Environment.

If so, the Pebble Mine could still move forward as it seeks the permits it needs, but would have to adhere to requirements the Environmental Protection Agency proposed in 2014 to protect wetlands along the pristine Bristol Bay and limit the construction of mine waste impoundments.

Pebble's owners now will likely have to prove to the EPA that the elimination of wetlands and creation of waste rock impoundments won't harm the Bristol Bay ecosystem, which produces nearly half the world's sockeye salmon.

A coalition of local businesspeople, tribal groups, and congressionally mandated entities known as Alaska Native Regional Corporations met with EPA political appointees and senior staff Sept. 11 and were told that the restrictions under the federal Clean Water Act will remain, said Matt Newman, senior staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund, which represents tribal entities in Alaska. Newman himself was at the meeting.

"They were very adamant that [former EPA chief Scott] Pruitt's final order, leaving the proposed determination in place, stands, even with the recent change in leadership that occurred this summer," Newman told Bloomberg Environment Sept. 18, referring to Pruitt's resignation in July. "There is no indication whatsoever from the EPA that

that decision is under any further consideration.”

In January, Pruitt made a surprise decision to leave Obama’s 2014 proposed water limits in place. That proposal would have effectively denied Pebble’s ability to secure a Clean Water Act permit, and was issued before Pebble had even submitted a mine plan or applied for a permit.

‘Nothing Has Changed’

The reasoning behind Pruitt’s January decision remains a mystery, particularly since he had moved in May 2017 to remove the limits. The EPA would almost certainly face a legal challenge by Alaskans and environmentalists should the Obama limits be waived.

Dan Cheyette, vice president of lands and resources at the Bristol Bay Native Corporation, said Bristol Bay groups have been in “constant contact” with EPA officials for many months and have never been told that the restrictions would be lifted.

Within the last 10 days, an EPA official said “nothing has changed since Pruitt decided not to rescind the proposed determination,” Cheyette told Bloomberg Environment. “They said they’re not even going to consider rescinding it unless something changes. And even if they did go down that line, there would be another round of public comment, and Bristol Bay stakeholders would have the opportunity to weigh in again.”

The EPA didn’t respond to numerous interview requests Sept. 18.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), who have been involved in the Pebble talks with EPA, also didn’t comment.

Shoddy Analysis?

On Sept. 6, a coalition of business groups, including Americans for Tax Reform, Americans for Prosperity, and the Competitive Enterprise Institute, sent a letter to the EPA urging it to strike down the 2014 Obama action known as a proposed determination.

Calling the action a pre-emptive veto, the groups said the proposed limits “would have a dramatic chilling effect on investment in America” and would block the creation of 2,000 jobs. They also alleged it was “based on incomplete, shoddy analysis, and agency collusion with liberal environmental activists and other project opponents.”

The Obama restrictions were never finalized, and legally can’t be until 2021, thanks to a court settlement the EPA reached with Pebble Mine last May. Until then, the EPA agreed not to impose more permanent restrictions under section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, which addresses the dumping of dredged or fill material.

If built, the Pebble Mine would tap into one of the biggest gold and copper deposits in the nation. Its supporters say it would bring much-needed jobs and economic growth to the Bristol Bay region.

The project’s opponents, however, argue it would have vast environmental impacts, including endangering the world’s largest wild salmon fishery as well as human health.

December Deadline

The Pebble Mine would sit at the headwaters of the sockeye-salmon-rich Nushagak River.

In June, Pruitt gave EPA’s Office of Water a December deadline for considering changes to its dredging permitting program that would forbid the agency from blocking permits before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received a permit application or after the Corps has issued a decision.

EPA is still working on that order, Newman said.

Pebble’s owner, Northern Dynasty Minerals, Ltd., is based in Vancouver, B.C.

Northern Dynasty has been seeking a new investor since First Quantum Minerals Ltd. walked away from the project in late May.

Sean Magee, executive vice president of strategic communications and public affairs at Northern Dynasty parent company Hunter Dickinson, told Bloomberg Environment that the company “does not make public comment on the status of its discussions with prospective partners, or its engagement with shareholders and investors.”

To: Allnutt, David[Allnutt.David@epa.gov]; Skadowski, Suzanne[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov]; McGrath, Patricia[mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov]; Mendelman, Krista[Mendelman.Krista@epa.gov]; Nogi, Jill[nogi.jill@epa.gov]; LaCroix, Matthew[LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov]
From: Palomaki, Ashley[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=51778D942F2741F8885A8180EC2D6036-PALOMAKI, A]
Sent: Wed 5/9/2018 6:20:57 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: From Greenwire -- BRISTOL BAY: How Pruitt found middle ground on Pebble mine

That spreadsheet is from the administrative record for the proposed withdrawal. There were only 5 meetings listed and 4 of the 5 meetings are with Pebble or their representatives...

Ashley Palomaki

Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region 10 Office of Regional Counsel
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, ORC-113
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-8582

From: Allnutt, David

Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2018 11:03 AM

To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>; Mendelman, Krista <Mendelman.Krista@epa.gov>; Nogi, Jill <nogi.jill@epa.gov>; LaCroix, Matthew <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>; Palomaki, Ashley <Palomaki.Ashley@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: From Greenwire -- BRISTOL BAY: How Pruitt found middle ground on Pebble mine

Just confirming that the E&E article that we discussed this morning is the same one that we were already familiar with. The "spreadsheet" that John was referring to must be the table of contacts linked to this story.



R. David Allnutt, Director
Office of Environmental Review and Assessment
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140
(206) 553-2581

From: jiani [mailto:email_this@eenews.net]

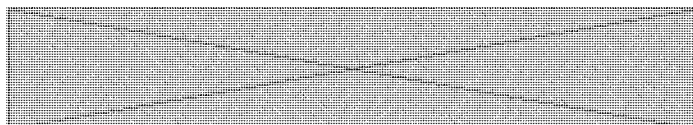
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2018 10:43 AM

To: Allnutt, David <Allnutt.David@epa.gov>

Subject: From Greenwire -- BRISTOL BAY: How Pruitt found middle ground on Pebble mine

This Greenwire story was sent to you by: jiani@perkinscoie.com

Personal message: Dave, here is the article I mentioned this morning.



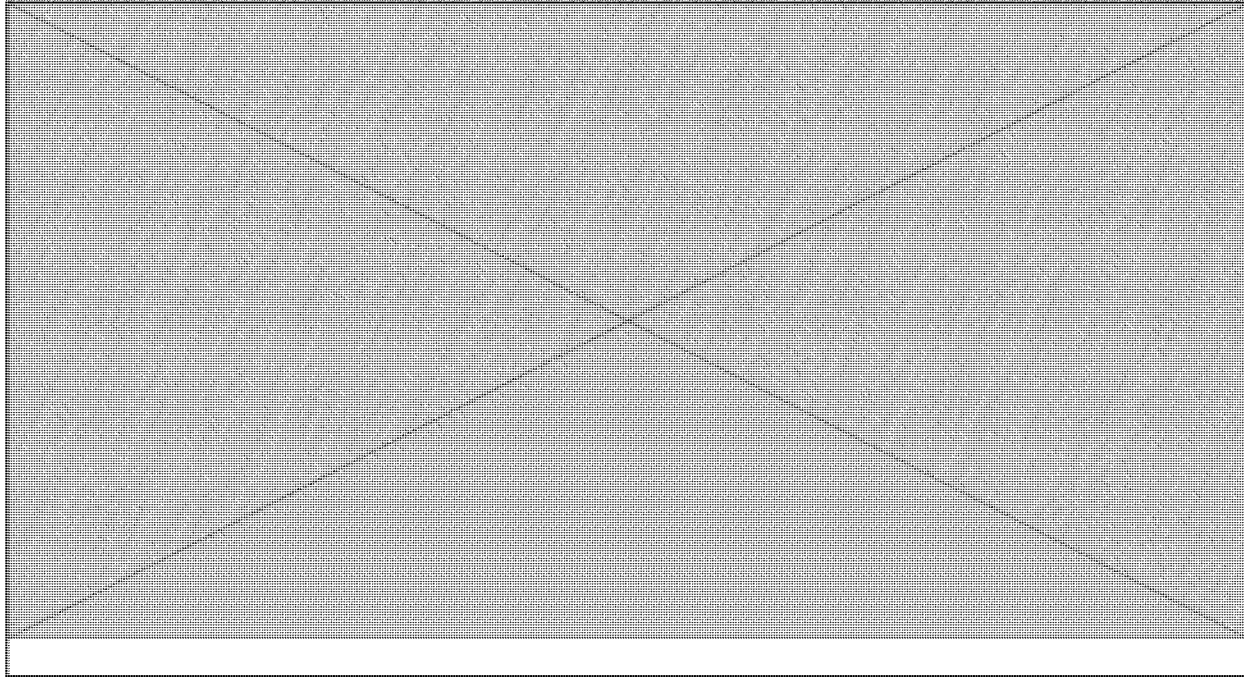
AN E&E NEWS PUBLICATION

BRISTOL BAY

How Pruitt found middle ground on Pebble mine

Dylan Brown and Ariel Wittenberg, E&E News reporters

Published: Wednesday, April 25, 2018



Alaska's Bristol Bay is the proposed site of the Pebble gold and copper mine. Robert Glenn Ketchum/Natural Resources Defense Council

EPA chief Scott Pruitt shocked many when he reversed course on withdrawing Obama-era proposed mining restrictions in Alaska's Bristol Bay region.

Though observers and advocates had expected Pruitt to pave the way for one of the world's biggest gold and copper mines near one of the planet's premier salmon fisheries, some had seen him gradually warming to the concerns of Bristol Bay and its dominant commercial fishing industry.

That evolution culminated in a Halloween meeting with leaders of the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.

BBEDC President and CEO Norman Van Vactor and H. Robin Samuelsen Jr., chairman of an Alaska fish-focused group, met with Pruitt last October. It was the one and only private meeting Pruitt took with Pebble opponents on his proposal to withdraw mining restrictions in the Bristol Bay watershed.

"We left the get-together feeling quite positive, but at the same time, the current administration has a reputation," Van Vactor said. "And so the proof is going to be in the pudding."

Going to see Pruitt, Van Vactor and Samuelsen said they were on a last-ditch mission to save the Obama EPA Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment from the agency's "trash can."

Months before, Pruitt had put the study and the mining restrictions it supported on the chopping block with a July 19 proposed withdrawal.

EPA Office of Water Deputy Assistant Administrator Lee Forsgren had arranged the appointment late in the

afternoon. The former staffer for Alaska Republican Rep. Don Young had connected with BBEDC at public meetings on the withdrawal in Bristol Bay.

The meeting, scheduled for 10 minutes, lasted nearly an hour.

"We developed some very positive rapport, and I think we got beyond the B.S. component," Van Vactor said.

He and Samuelsen left understanding that Pruitt "was looking for the ability for the developers of the mining project to proceed with their application, but he wanted protections to remain in place," Van Vactor said.

EPA declined to comment for this story but has steadfastly denied that Pruitt flipped. The administrator maintains he is committed to "due process."

The BBEDC meeting is one factor that may have changed Pruitt's mind about keeping the proposed protections for Bristol Bay on the table.

Other factors may have been deep Alaska connections at EPA, pressure from the state's congressional delegation and the potential influence of fishing trips taken by Pruitt and President Trump's sons to the isolated region.

The meeting made an impression on EPA, too.

An EPA meeting summary says: "BBEDC proposed that EPA suspend the existing process where it is now and give [Pebble LP] an opportunity to submit their application."

A few days later, Pruitt met with top agency lawyers and Forsgren about Bristol Bay, his schedule shows.

Then, in January, the agency suspended the withdrawal, waiting until just after Pebble had submitted its application (Greenwire, Jan. 26).

The news created a glimmer of hope for fishermen, Alaska Native groups and other Pebble opponents even as it landed Pruitt in hot water with his conservative base, which condemned him for backsliding on promises to end EPA "overreach" in Bristol Bay (Greenwire, April 20).

The embattled administrator's ethics troubles now have both sides wondering what comes next.

"We could potentially be right back to square one," Van Vactor said.

A surprise move

Before meeting with BBEDC, Pruitt had never given an indication the watershed assessment would survive.

The four other private meetings he and top-level EPA employees had on the issue were with mine supporters.

On May 1, Pruitt met with Pebble CEO Tom Collier and Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting Director Darrin Munoz.

An hour after the meeting, Pruitt ordered his staff to withdraw protections in Bristol Bay without consulting officials in EPA's Region 10 — who had spent years authoring them.

Months later, a CNN story detailing the controversial action sparked a public firestorm and frustration within the agency.

On May 12, EPA reached a settlement resolving a trio of Pebble lawsuits (E&ENews PM, May 12).

EPA officials spoke with Collier and Peter Robertson, a Pebble lobbyist and former Clinton-era EPA official, again in July when the pair called to confirm that the agency would publicly initiate a process to withdraw the proposed determination.

In September, then-Pebble lobbyist Alan Mintz of Van Ness Feldman LLP caught up with Forsgren. Old colleagues from working in Alaska, the pair briefly discussed Pebble and the Trump administration's review of the watershed assessment, according to the meeting log.

Later that month, Robertson made another trip to EPA headquarters to outline Pebble's mine plan, permit application submission and search for a business partner.

At that point, the log stated: "EPA confirmed that it was still in the process of the proposal to withdraw the Proposed Determination, and no decision had been made."

A few weeks later on Oct. 31, Pruitt met with BBEDC.

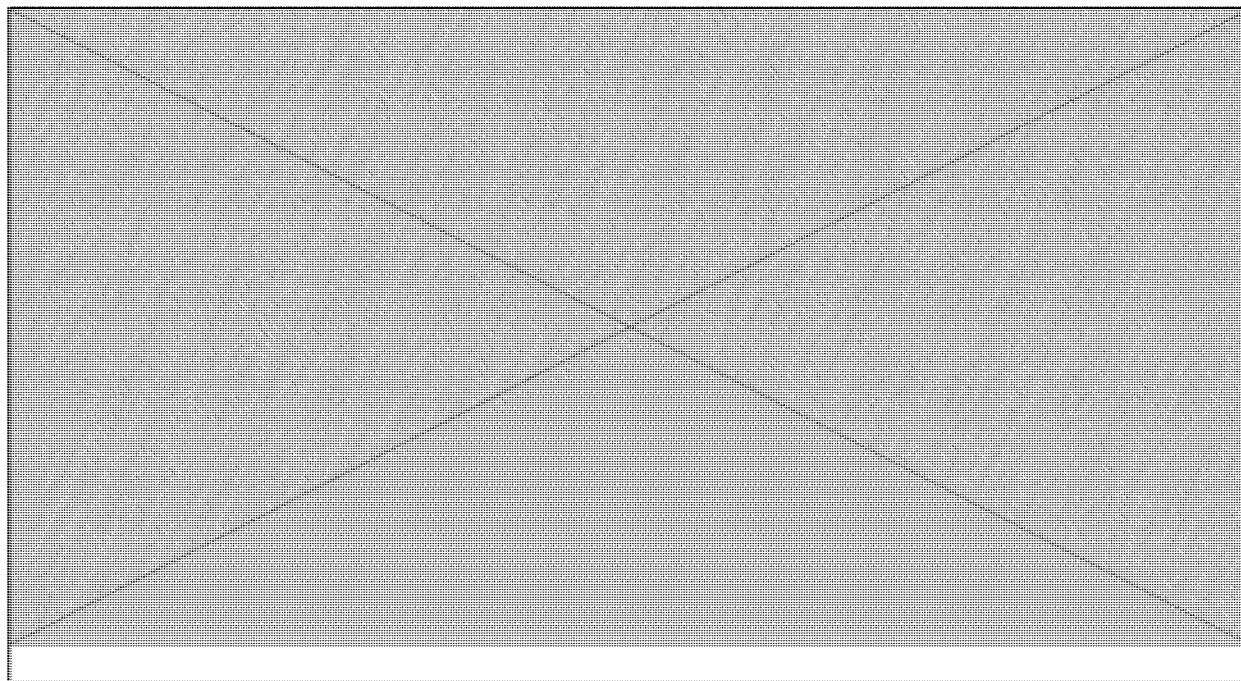
EPA's own statements on Bristol Bay appear to have taken the fishing industry's perspective on Pebble into account.

"From public comments to various community meetings, stakeholders stressed the importance of balancing a singular mine venture with the risk of one of the world's largest commercial fisheries," EPA wrote in the Jan. 26 press release announcing the withdrawal suspension.

"For EPA not to express an environmental position at this stage would be disingenuous."

Van Vactor said the forceful statements left him "pleasantly surprised." Despite his meeting with Pruitt, Van Vactor said he does not want to declare victory too early.

"I have confidence that the science will speak for itself," Van Vactor said. "But there is still so much that still needs to play out."



Donald Trump Jr. (back right) and Donald Trump III (front right) at Alaska's Gold Creek Lodge in Bristol Bay this year.
Alaska's Gold Creek Lodge

'Up close and personal'?

The Alaska congressional delegation had been urging EPA to listen to those living and working in Bristol Bay.

The same day Pruitt ordered his staff to begin withdrawing the Bristol Bay mining limits, he met with Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

The next day, May 2, Pruitt followed up with Murkowski and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) on a 15-minute conference call.

"I was actually passing on a letter from a lot of the leadership, Native tribal leadership in Bristol Bay," Sullivan told E&E News. "We wanted him to have the letter and said, 'These are really important people. They are our constituents; you need to meet with them.'"

At the Halloween meeting, Van Vactor said, Pruitt talked about his own fishing trip to Bristol Bay before becoming administrator.

"He said he had a great time," Van Vactor said. "He had an appreciation for what we're talking about up here."

Pruitt isn't the only one with strong ties to the administration to enjoy the area.

First family brothers Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump have both taken fishing expeditions in the rugged region.

Bear Trail Lodge guide Nanci Morris Lyon last year ferried Eric Trump's roughly dozen-man bachelor party, including his brother. Then Trump Jr. brought his son, Donald Trump III, back this year to the neighboring Alaska's Gold Creek Lodge.

"They were there. They understand how stupid it is to put something so toxic in the middle of something so pristine," said Lyon, who recently penned a *Juneau Empire* [op-ed](#) against Pebble. "I honestly feel it was one of the huge catalysts that made Pruitt change his mind."

"Knowing Trump and how pro-production he is on everything, I just have to believe that it had to have been a factor," she added.

Though the president's sons' stances on Pebble are unknown, Lyon said they understand better than most.

"When you come out and visit these places, you have no choice but to get up close and personal because it's not like D.C., where things can be kept impersonal," she said.

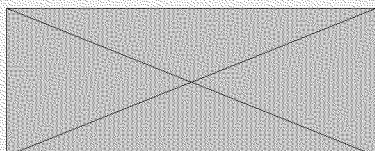
Reporter Kevin Bogardus contributed.

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www.eenews.net

To: Skadowski, Suzanne[Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov]
From: Peterson, Erik[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=0ECBA75A9F9448D3980A693951129E64-PETERSON, ERIK]
Sent: Wed 5/23/2018 3:55:57 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: Bristol Bay 404(c) Team Call -- follow up info

Thank you Suzanne, very helpful.



Erik Peterson, NEPA Reviewer
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140
(206) 553-6382

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:13 AM
To: Peterson, Erik <Peterson.Erik@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Nalven, Heidi <Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov>; Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Palomaki, Ashley <Palomaki.Ashley@epa.gov>; Bennett, Brittany <bennett.brittany@epa.gov>; Whitley, Annie <Whitley.Annie@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Bristol Bay 404(c) Team Call -- follow up info

Murkowski statements re Pebble PD withdrawal:

Murkowski Reacts to EPA’s Pebble Announcement

“Administrator Pruitt is taking a balanced approach by allowing Pebble to enter the permitting process, while noting EPA’s duty to fully protect the region’s world-class fisheries,” Murkowski said. “With the company now having filed its application, I expect that a fair, rigorous, and transparent process will soon begin so that Alaskans can understand the impacts and risks, as well as the potential benefits associated with this project.” Murkowski, the Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, worked with EPA to extend the comment period on its proposed withdrawal by 90 days. This was necessary to ensure that all Alaskan stakeholders, including commercial fishermen, would have an opportunity to weigh in.

EPA admin's Pebble decision surprised Murkowski, she says

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt took a left turn on the proposed Pebble mine last month. If you were surprised, then you’re not alone. U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski was, too. Pruitt announced a decision to keep alive a proposal from the Obama administration to protect the headwaters of Bristol Bay, a proposal Murkowski and other Republicans had complained was egregious federal overreach.

Murkowski got the news from Pruitt, just before the public announcement. “I was just generally surprised. I think part of it is because the administrator has typically taken an approach that less reg – I don’t want to say less regulation,” Murkowski said, pausing to choose her words carefully. “He has been more favorably inclined to find paths forward where there have been regulatory impediments placed.”

Murkowski has not taken a position for or against the mine. But she was highly critical when President Barack Obama’s EPA proposed restrictions on Pebble, prohibiting it from damaging more than five miles of fish streams, among other limits. Murkowski called that a “pre-emptive veto.” Pebble had not yet applied for its permits. Murkowski said what the Trump administration has done is different. “The action that they took does not halt Pebble’s application,” Murkowski said. “It says that they may continue through that process. That’s the difference.”

But Obama’s EPA administrator said her action wasn’t blocking Pebble’s application, either. “If the company is ready for permit application, they’re still free to submit that, and we’d encourage that,” then-administrator Gina McCarthy said at a 2014 hearing, answering questions from Murkowski. Pebble did not file its application until late last year. Murkowski said Pruitt wants a credible process and has set a high bar for Pebble to meet.

Governor Walker's statements:

Walker speaks out against Pebble Mine as company announces new mine plan

"I am not supportive of the Pebble Mine," Walker told Alaska Public ... Lisa Murkowski's office, the senator "is not willing to trade salmon for gold.

In reversal, EPA deals setback to controversial gold mining proposal in Alaska

In a statement released by the EPA, Gov. Bill Walker (I) thanked the agency "for listening to my input, as well as the input of thousands of Alaskans who oppose rescinding" the Obama-era assessment. Walker said he had discussed the mine repeatedly with Pruitt, "and I have shared with him my belief that in the Bristol Bay region we should prioritize the resource that has sustained generations and must continue to do so in perpetuity."

From: Peterson, Erik

Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 1:19 PM

To: Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Nalven, Heidi <Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov>; Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Palomaki, Ashley <Palomaki.Ashley@epa.gov>; Bennett, Brittany <bennett.brittany@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Michael <Ortiz.Michael@epa.gov>; Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Lindsay, Andrea <Lindsay.Andrea@epa.gov>; Whitley, Annie <Whitley.Annie@epa.gov>; Wake, Neverley <wake.neverley@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Herbst, John <herbst.john@epa.gov>

Subject: Bristol Bay 404(c) Team Call - 5/15

Hello BB 404(c) Team,

I propose we cancel the BB 404(c) team call for tomorrow, 5/15. Please let me know if you have something pressing and think we need to meet.

A few updates:

- Heidi and Ashley working on PLP response, will send to Palmer, Brittany and Erik for review prior to sending to Allnutt and Carrie Wehling. Plan to discuss on 5/22 before Allnutt Check-in.
- Reminder to document external meetings using our sharepoint at: [External Meetings SharePoint Link](#).

Draft agenda items for 5/22 Tuesday call. Please send any additional items by COB EST 5/21.

- FOIA
- PLP response
- HAC QFR
- Congressional letter

Erik Peterson, NEPA Reviewer
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140
(206) 553-6382



To: Owens, Kim[Owens.Kim@epa.gov]; Fidis, Alexander[Fidis.Alexander@epa.gov]
Sent: Thur 6/27/2019 10:19:27 PM (UTC)
Subject: FW: FYI only - Gold Mine With \$100 Billion Lode to Get Lifeline From Trump EPA
[image2019-06-26-084914 \(002\).pdf](#)

Hi Kim and Alex –

Just letting you know since you are acting for Cara that EPA issued the attached memo yesterday, directing Region 10 “to resume its consideration whether to withdraw the 2014 Proposed Determination.”

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ashley Palomaki
Assistant Regional Counsel
U.S. EPA Region 10 Office of Regional Counsel
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, M/S 11-C07
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-8582

From: Hough, Palmer
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 5:43 PM
To: Allnutt, David <Allnutt.David@epa.gov>; Bennett, Brittany <bennett.brittany@epa.gov>; Best-Wong, Benita <Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov>; Eisenberg, Mindy <Eisenberg.Mindy@epa.gov>; Fordham, Tami <Fordham.Tami@epa.gov>; Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>; Frazer, Brian <Frazer.Brian@epa.gov>; Frithsen, Jeff <Frithsen.Jeff@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Herbst, John <herbst.john@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Russell <Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov>; Lindsay, Andrea <Lindsay.Andrea@epa.gov>; McGrath, Patricia <mcgrath.patricia@epa.gov>; Murphy, Stacy <Murphy.Stacy@epa.gov>; Nalven, Heidi <Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov>; Neugeboren, Steven <Neugeboren.Steven@epa.gov>; Ortiz, Michael <Ortiz.Michael@epa.gov>; Palomaki, Ashley <Palomaki.Ashley@epa.gov>; Peterson, Erik <Peterson.Erik@epa.gov>; Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; Stern, Allyn <Stern.Alyn@epa.gov>; Szerlog, Michael <Szerlog.Michael@epa.gov>; Wake, Neverley <wake.neverley@epa.gov>; Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Whitley, Annie <Whitley.Annie@epa.gov>
Subject: FYI only - Gold Mine With \$100 Billion Lode to Get Lifeline From Trump EPA

Gold Mine With \$100 Billion Lode to Get Lifeline From Trump EPA

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-06-26/pebble-gold-mine-in-alaska-to-get-lifeline-from-trump-s-epa>
By

Jennifer A Dlouhy

June 26, 2019, 12:00 PM EDT Updated on June 26, 2019, 12:13 PM EDT

- Mine would tap massive lode of gold, copper and molybdenum
- Risks to Bristol Bay wild salmon fishery raised by critics

The Trump administration is throwing a lifeline to the massive Pebble Mine planned near Alaska’s Bristol Bay, as regulators move toward undoing Obama-era environmental restrictions that have thwarted the project.

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) will resume considering on Wednesday whether to withdraw the proposed water pollution restrictions that have effectively stalled the project since they were outlined in 2014, said a senior EPA official who asked for anonymity to discuss the matter before it is public. Reconsidering the issue -- after a year-and-a-half hiatus -- is a necessary prelude to the EPA officially lifting the restrictions later.

The EPA’s action is a significant boost for [Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd.](#) and [Pebble LP](#) supporters, who have called on the EPA to lift the Clean Water Act restrictions and let the proposed gold, copper and molybdenum mine move forward.



Dillingham, Alaska in the Bristol Bay region.

Photographer: Bill Roth/Anchorage Daily News/MCT via Getty Images

Northern Dynasty rose the most since November on the news, jumping as much as 28% in New York trading.

Developers have touted the mine's potential, saying it aims to tap "the most significant undeveloped copper and gold resource in the world," with 6.5 billion tons of known minerals and another 4.5 billion tons of assumed minerals. The bounty of gold alone is estimated to be worth more than \$100 billion.

But that mineral lode has been out of reach largely because of the project's location in southwestern Alaska, inside an area that drains into Bristol Bay, home to the world's most productive wild salmon fishery. Conservationists, local activists and fishing operations have fought the project for more than a dozen years, warning it could jeopardize the region's salmon -- and a flourishing fishery with a catch that topped \$281 million last year.

The Trump administration action targets the EPA's 2014 proposal limiting the discharge of mining waste in the Bristol Bay watershed. The proposed restrictions, issued under former President Barack Obama even before project developers submitted a mine plan or formally sought government authorizations, could preclude the company from obtaining essential permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The restrictions can't legally be finalized until 2021 because of a court settlement the EPA reached with Pebble Mine in May 2017. Until then, the EPA has agreed not to impose more permanent restrictions under a section of the Clean Water Act governing the dumping of dredged or fill material.

Developers have since sought a permit, and the Army Corps is evaluating the project's environmental impacts. However, confusion about the status of the five-year-old proposed limits casts a cloud over the process, EPA General Counsel Matthew Leopold said in a draft memo reviewed by Bloomberg. It is important to make a final decision on the 2014 proposal to provide clarity and transparency to the public, Leopold argued in the memo.

EPA's move follows calls to scrap the proposed restrictions from conservative and business groups, including Americans for Tax Reform, Americans for Prosperity and the Competitive Enterprise Institute. The groups argued Obama's EPA effectively issued a preemptive veto of the project, short-circuiting substantive review of the mine based on assumptions about what it would look like. Pebble also argued its new mine plan is significantly different from what the Obama administration anticipated.

While restarting the review doesn't guarantee the proposed limits will be scrapped, the drafted memo echoes the conservative criticism of the agency's approach under Obama. The EPA is now also preparing to invoke provisions in the Clean Water Act

allowing it to coordinate with the Army Corps as it vets the mine, according to the drafted document.

The Trump administration has taken an inconsistent approach to the project.

First, under former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, the agency proposed lifting the Obama-era water limits before Pruitt made a surprise decision to leave them in place eight months later. Now, the EPA is effectively reinstating the process that was underway before Pruitt's pivot. Current EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler has recused himself from any involvement in the issue, because his former law firm Faegre Baker Daniels LLP provided services to Pebble.

Northern Dynasty has been raising funds amid the government review. On June 24, the company closed the sale of 12.2 million shares, raising \$5 million, saying it needed the money to fund the ongoing environmental impact study of the project and continued "outreach and engagement with political and regulatory offices." It also sold large blocks of shares in March, raising more than \$10 million.

The project still faces headwinds -- including stiff political opposition in Congress, where a provision that would temporarily block the project was tucked into a House spending bill earlier this month.

— *With assistance by Stephen Lee, and Susan Decker*

Palmer Hough, Environmental Scientist
office: 202.566.1374

Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
U.S. EPA Headquarters (MC 4504T)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
www.epa.gov/wetlands

To: Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Morin, Jeff[Morin.Jeff@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Dennis, Allison[Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]; Holsman, Marianne[Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov]; OWC[OWC@epa.gov]
From: Skadowski, Suzanne[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1713ED42E6E244BC9FCD783D4A8D39AB-SKADOWSKI, SUZANNE]
Sent: Tue 7/2/2019 5:46:12 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Bloomberg | [Alaskan Gold Mine Gets Boost as Trump's EPA Intervenes on Permit](#)

*EPA triggers legal process that could spur permit compromise
Pebble Mine owners tout bounty of gold, copper and molybdenum*

The [Environmental Protection Agency](#) on Monday moved to ensure it has a role negotiating the terms of any permit for the massive Pebble Mine planned near Alaska's Bristol Bay, a move that may bolster the permit's chances of approval.

The EPA's action comes as the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) evaluates how the proposed gold, copper and molybdenum mine would affect the region's water, land and thriving salmon fishery. In comments filed with the Army Corps, the EPA invoked a provision in a federal clean-water law that would allow top officials from both agencies to work out disagreements over a potential mine permit.

The EPA last week decided to [resume consideration](#) of proposed water pollution restrictions that threatened the project since the Obama administration outlined the restrictions in 2014.

[Earlier: Gold Mine With \\$100 Billion Lode to Get Lifeline From Trump EPA](#)

The EPA's continued involvement could be welcomed by supporters of the mine, developer [Pebble LP](#) and its parent company, [Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd.](#)

However, the EPA stressed that its action should not be viewed as a decision on the project or what to do about those five-year-old proposed restrictions. Regional EPA officials are coordinating with the Army Corps "to ensure that the EPA can continue to work with the Corps to address concerns raised during the permitting process," the agency said in letters and formal comments made public Tuesday.

Under another administration, the EPA's intervention might signal the agency's desire to prod the Army Corps into rejecting a permit, said Taryn Kiekow Heimer, a senior advocate at the [Natural Resources Defense Council](#). Now that President Donald Trump's EPA is reconsidering the 2014 restrictions, the opposite outcome is possible, she said.

The EPA told the Army Corps it believed the proposed mine poses a "substantial and unacceptable" impact on an "aquatic resource of national importance" -- a legal threshold for the agency's continued involvement.

The EPA also criticized the Army Corps' draft environmental impact statement on the project, saying it "appears to lack certain critical information about the proposed project" and "likely underestimates impacts and risks." The EPA said it had "concerns regarding the extent and magnitude of the substantial proposed impacts to streams, wetlands and other aquatic resources that may result" from the project.

Project critics have said the Army Corps' analysis takes a narrow view of its potential impacts, failing to consider the collective damage from potential leaks and spills at the site.

"The Pebble Mine project is the largest, most complex and riskiest resource project proposed in Alaska," said McKie Campbell, a former deputy commissioner of the state's Department of Fish and Game. "In spite of this, it is being evaluated with the most flawed and rushed environmental impact statement that I have ever been aware of."

EPA General Counsel Matthew Leopold previously said the consultation procedure was needed "to align the EPA with the Army Corps process to ensure all potential significant impacts to the environment are thoroughly vetted and raised before any final decision on the permit can be reached."

Developers, who have spent millions lobbying on behalf of the project, say the mine would tap a massive gold and copper resource. But the project is located in an area that drains into Bristol Bay, home to the world's most productive wild salmon fishery, raising concerns about its potential environmental cost.

Conservationists, local activists and fishing operations warned the Army Corps the mine could jeopardize the region's salmon and a flourishing fishery with a catch that topped \$281 million last year.

From: Skadowski, Suzanne

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 10:22 AM

To: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Morin, Jeff <Morin.Jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Associated Press | [EPA official cites concerns with Pebble Mine review](#)

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A regional official with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says a draft review of a proposed mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay region likely underestimates impacts the project could have on fish and other resources.

Chris Hladick (lad-ick) says the draft appears to lack critical information about the proposed Pebble Mine and mitigation. EPA has said Bristol Bay produces about half the world's sockeye salmon. Hladick submitted his comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is reviewing a permit application submitted by the Pebble Limited Partnership for the proposed copper and gold mine in southwest Alaska.

Mine opponents have criticized the corps' review as flawed. Mike Heatwole, a Pebble spokesman, said Monday the corps has done a "credible, transparent job."

Alaska Public Media | [EPA says report on Pebble Mine lacks detail, likely underestimates ...](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has just released [formal comments](#) on the proposed Pebble Mine, and mine opponents will find a lot to cheer about. The EPA's 100-page comment criticizes the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Pebble mine proposal. The EPA says the draft report lacks critical information and likely underestimates the risk the project poses to water quality and aquatic resources.

The EPA provided a detailed list of recommendations for the Corps of Engineers to include in its final report. The two agencies both have roles in ensuring that projects comply with the Clean Water Act. The document, [and another](#) in a similar vein, is signed by Chris Hladick, the Alaskan who is the head of EPA's Region 10.

The comments note the importance of the area to Bristol Bay. Pebble would be within the watershed of the bay, home to a valuable sockeye salmon fishery, and near many sportfishing lodges.

Suzanne Skadowski

Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle

O: 206-553-2160 C: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#)

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From: Abboud, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:23 AM

To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Cc: Morin, Jeff <Morin.Jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Where is this posting to?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 2, 2019, at 12:15 PM, Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you Jeff! Our guy is on it now. Should be done soon.

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle
O: 206-553-2160 C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
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From: Morin, Jeff
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:14 AM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Hi Suzanne... thanks.

I'll be standing by in case my help is needed.

Jeff Morin
Office of Web Communications
US Environmental Protection Agency
w. 202-564-6553
<https://intranet.epa.gov/newsreleases>

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Morin, Jeff <Morin.Jeff@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Our webmaster is in the office now and can post asap. I have given him direction on how to post with intro text.

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle
O: 206-553-2160 C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
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From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:11 AM
To: Morin, Jeff <Morin.Jeff@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Jeff – here are the documents .. I believe they go on the epa.gov/bristolbay site – others will weigh in on specific language and location on the site.

Jeff, can you confirm you are on board to do this? Thanks ng

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Stachowiak, Robert <Stachowiak.Robert@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

The letters (attached) will be posted to the Bristol Bay website this morning, around 8:00am PT/11 am ET. If you need this up sooner, we'll need someone at HQ to post (Jennifer Dibble?).

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle
O: 206-553-2160 C: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
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From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 4:03 AM
To: Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Cc: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Stachowiak, Robert <Stachowiak.Robert@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS

Hi –

Can you provide an update on the posting? Thanks ng

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net>
Date: July 2, 2019 at 5:25:52 AM EDT
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS
Reply-To: "Jennifer A. Dlouhy" <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net>

Good morning. Presumably, EPA filed comments as intended with the Army Corps of Engineers on the Pebble Mine DEIS before the comment period closed at midnight.

However, those comments have not yet shown up on epa.gov/bristolbay nor in the comment repository at the Pebble EIS website. Can you please send the comments or point to where they are available?

Thanks,
Jen.

Jennifer A. Dlouhy
jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net / jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com
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Desk: 202.807.2159
Cell/Text/Signal: 202.905.3257

Twitter: @jendlouhyhc
Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>

To: Abboud, Michael[abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Morin, Jeff[Morin.Jeff@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Drinkard, Andrea[Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Dennis, Allison[Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]; Holsman, Marianne[Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov]; OWC[OWC@epa.gov]
From: Skadowski, Suzanne[/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1713ED42E6E244BC9FCD783D4A8D39AB-SKADOWSKI, SUZANNE]
Sent: Tue 7/2/2019 5:22:19 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Associated Press | [EPA official cites concerns with Pebble Mine review](#)

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A regional official with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says a draft review of a proposed mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay region likely underestimates impacts the project could have on fish and other resources.

Chris Hladick (lad-ick) says the draft appears to lack critical information about the proposed Pebble Mine and mitigation. EPA has said Bristol Bay produces about half the world's sockeye salmon. Hladick submitted his comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is reviewing a permit application submitted by the Pebble Limited Partnership for the proposed copper and gold mine in southwest Alaska.

Mine opponents have criticized the corps' review as flawed. Mike Heatwole, a Pebble spokesman, said Monday the corps has done a "credible, transparent job."

Alaska Public Media | [EPA says report on Pebble Mine lacks detail, likely underestimates ...](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has just released [formal comments](#) on the proposed Pebble Mine, and mine opponents will find a lot to cheer about. The EPA's 100-page comment criticizes the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Pebble mine proposal. The EPA says the draft report lacks critical information and likely underestimates the risk the project poses to water quality and aquatic resources.

The EPA provided a detailed list of recommendations for the Corps of Engineers to include in its final report. The two agencies both have roles in ensuring that projects comply with the Clean Water Act. The document, [and another](#) in a similar vein, is signed by Chris Hladick, the Alaskan who is the head of EPA's Region 10.

The comments note the importance of the area to Bristol Bay. Pebble would be within the watershed of the bay, home to a valuable sockeye salmon fishery, and near many sportfishing lodges.

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle
O: 206-553-2160 Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
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From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Cc: Morin, Jeff <Morin.Jeff@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Where is this posting to?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 2, 2019, at 12:15 PM, Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov> wrote:

Thank you Jeff! Our guy is on it now. Should be done soon.

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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From: Morin, Jeff
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:14 AM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Hi Suzanne... thanks.

I'll be standing by in case my help is needed.

Jeff Morin
Office of Web Communications
US Environmental Protection Agency
w. 202-564-6553
<https://intranet.epa.gov/newsreleases>

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Morin, Jeff <Morin.Jeff@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Our webmaster is in the office now and can post asap. I have given him direction on how to post with intro text.

Suzanne Skadowski
Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations
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From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:11 AM
To: Morin, Jeff <Morin.Jeff@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; OWC <OWC@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

Jeff – here are the documents .. I believe they go on the epa.gov/bristolbay site – others will weigh in on specific language and location on the site.

Jeff, can you confirm you are on board to do this? Thanks ng

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Stachowiak, Robert <Stachowiak.Robert@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS and 404

The letters (attached) will be posted to the Bristol Bay website this morning, around 8:00am PT/11 am ET. If you need this up sooner, we'll need someone at HQ to post (Jennifer Dibble?).

Suzanne Skadowski
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From: Grantham, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 4:03 AM
To: Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>; Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Cc: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Stachowiak, Robert <Stachowiak.Robert@epa.gov>; Risley, David <Risley.David@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS

Hi –

Can you provide an update on the posting? Thanks ng

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <Press@epa.gov>
From: "Jennifer A. Dlouhy (BLOOMBERG/ NEWSROOM:)" <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net>
Date: July 2, 2019 at 5:25:52 AM EDT
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA comments on Pebble Mine DEIS
Reply-To: "Jennifer A. Dlouhy" <jdlouhy1@bloomberg.net>

Good morning. Presumably, EPA filed comments as intended with the Army Corps of Engineers on the Pebble Mine DEIS before the comment period closed at midnight.

However, those comments have not yet shown up on epa.gov/bristolbay nor in the

comment repository at the Pebble EIS website. Can you please send the comments or point to where they are available?

Thanks,
Jen.

Jennifer A. Dlouhy
jdlohy1@bloomberg.net / jendlouhyenergy@gmail.com
reporterjen@protonmail.com
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Cell/Text/Signal: 202.905.3257
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Stories: <http://bloom.bg/23Crpvk>